

a width of the groove increases from inside outward;  
a thickness of the tongue decreases in the direction of an unattached end;  
the projection on the tongue is triangular and exhibits a shorter back surface and a longer front surface;

the recess in the groove exhibits a shorter contact surface that lies at a distance from the groove base and that rests against the shorter back surface of the projection;

at least one of the two groove sides flex elastically and outwards relative to the other groove side so that in a locked position the tongue is held by the groove sides with a squeezing action or is inserted into the groove while the groove sides bend elastically;

an angle between the longer front surface and the shorter back surface is 1000 to 1400;

two legs of the groove are equally as long as the respective longer front surface and the shorter back surface;

the recess in the groove exhibits a contact area close to the groove base that in the locked position at least partially rests against the longer front surface;

the longer front surface close to the groove base, or the section of the tongue area received by the recess, is four to eight times as long as the shorter back surface; and

the tongue is provided with the layer of adhesive or with the adhesive with an activating substance on at least the contact surface of the groove walls close to at least one of the groove base and on the longer front surface of the tongue.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 2 is amended for the Examiner's consideration. Attached hereto is a separate sheet entitled "Marked-Up Copy of Claims" showing a marked up copy of the amended claim. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.